


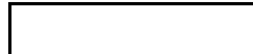
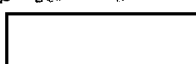


MEMORANDUM FOR:

JFH 
PNS 
ACG —

FYI

Attached is a copy of the 
response to DIA on the proposal
to reduce NPIC's workload 
etc. Also attached are the earlier
documents on the subject including
our comments as well as 
for the time being the matter seems
to be dead. al (DATE) 9/3

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

31 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Chief, Special Activities Office
Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Proposal to Relieve NPIC Workload

1. This is in response to [REDACTED] memorandum of 5 August 1970 forwarding SAC's suggestion that some of the first and second phase exploitation of satellite photography be delegated to its 544th Aerospace Reconnaissance Technical Wing in Omaha. In evaluating this suggestion, I believe that we must consider many factors other than the availability of excess resources at the 544th.

2. First is the matter of existing directives and the reasoning behind them. NSCID No. 8 assigns to NPIC the responsibilities for first and second phase reporting and for performing other services of common concern. The National Tasking Plan reaffirmed NPIC's responsibility for first and second phase reporting and was more explicit about the allocation of other exploitation tasks within the intelligence community. One intent of these directives was to provide the intelligence community with a centralized and authoritative facility for the rapid exploitation of satellite photography and to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of this task.

3. I believe that NPIC has been able to fulfill its responsibilities very well. Under present arrangements all elements of the community look to one organization for first and second phase readout from satellite missions. NPIC also provides a focal point for special first phase exploitation

[REDACTED]
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requirements of intelligence consumers and for feedback guidance to operators for subsequent coverage, even for satellites still in orbit. As an organization manned by CIA and DIA and in the Washington area, NPIC has been immediately responsive to the intelligence community as a whole in meeting the needs of policy makers. Delegation of these responsibilities to a single-service organization outside the Washington area would run counter to the philosophical basis of existing directives and jeopardize the established pattern of dependable service.

4. Second is the matter of the availability of certain unique capabilities at NPIC. Over the years NPIC has established national imagery files and all-source support data with ADP control. Well established and rather complex procedures provide the photo interpreters with the specific data needed to evaluate properly and in perspective the information content of newly acquired imagery. With some effort and considerable expense the capabilities could, I presume, be duplicated at the 544th. Of course, this would generate the need for arrangements to prevent divergencies from arising between the principal data base at NPIC and that at the 544th. I doubt, however, that the additional costs and difficulties involved in duplicating these capabilities would be warranted.

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6. As you know, NPIC is taking steps to increase its exploitation capabilities. The number of photo interpreters is being increased, and NPIC is counting on changes in equipment and procedures and the results of its R&D effort to increase the effectiveness of each photo interpreter.

7. By these means and with the continued cooperation between CIA and DIA, I expect NPIC to meet the new challenge as in the past, to fulfill its responsibilities for first and second phase readout. The availability of more exploitation would certainly assure this expectation and would probably make the task easier. My judgment is that assigning some of NPIC's responsibilities to the 544th would be a very inefficient and confusing way of acquiring these additional resources. If the 544th has excess resources, as is implied in SAC's proposal, it would be better to transfer the funds and positions to DIA for use at NPIC. (In doing this we should not change the CIA-DIA staffing pattern of NPIC.) In this way we could preserve all the benefits outlined in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 above.

8. I am in no position to determine the feasibility of transferring resources from the 544th to DIA for this purpose. Unless you believe it worth investigating such a transfer with other elements of the Department of Defense or the Office of Management and Budget, I suggest we not pursue the SAC proposal any further. If I do not hear from you on this matter by the end of September, I will assume that DIA has decided to reject the SAC proposal.

Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

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